

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01056 120858Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 /061 W

----- 046218

R 120808Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5438

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1056

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI PFOR KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO HOLLINGSWORTH DEPARTURE

1. RETIREMENT OF US-ROK I CORPS COMMANDER LTG JAMES HOLLINGSWORTH HAS BEEN MAJOR NEWS STORY AND LOCAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION FROM TIME GENERAL'S REPLACEMENT ANNOUNCED JANUARY 24 UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FEBRUARY 12. MEDIA HAS GIVEN ALMOST DAILY COVERAGE TO HOLLINGSWORTH PRE-DEPARTURE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING NUMEROUS TESTIMONIAL DINNERS BY ROK POLITICAL FIGURES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, SERIES OF MILITARY FAREWELL CEREMONIES, AND CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK AT WHICH PRESIDENT EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO GENERAL AND DECORATED HIM FOR "EXCEPTIONALLY OUTSTANDING" SERVICE IN KOREA, PARTICULARLY HIS CONTRIBUTION TO FORWARD DEFENSE POSTURE.

2. PRESS HAS PAINTED PICTURE OF HOLLINGSWORTH AS POSSESSING UNIQUE BLEND OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE, TOUGHNESS AND SKILL NEEDED AT CRITICAL TIME IN ROK HISTORY. EDITORIALS HAVE PRAISED HIM FOR HIS "CORRECT" PERCEPTION OF NORTHERN THREAT, UNDERSTANDING OF NATURE OF COMMUNISM, AND CONSEQUENT FORMULATION OF SHORT-WAR STRATEGY WHICH WAS IMPORTANT IN DETERING NORTHERN ATTACK IN THE POST-VIETNAM PERIOD.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01056 120858Z

3. PAPERS HAVE ALSO REPORTED WIDESPREAD SPECULATION AND SUBSEQUENT U.S.G. DENIAL THAT HOLLINGSWORTH WAS REPLACED FOR EXCEEDING HIS AUTHORITY IN MAKING HARD-LINE STATEMENTS WARNING NORTH KOREA AGAINST ATTACK. CHOSUN ILBO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WROTE FEBRUARY 3 THAT THERE ARE GROUNDS SUPPORTING STORY OF EARLY RETIREMENT FOR POLITICAL REASONS AND EVEN COMPARED CASE TO RETIREMENT OF GENERAL MACARTHUR. CHOSUN ILBO ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO JUXTAPOSE ITS PRAISE OF EXPERIENCED COMMUNIST FIGHTER WITH STRONG CRITICISM OF U.S. RELIANCE ON INTELLECTUALS AND COMPUTERS IN FORMATION POLICY TO DEAL WITH COMMUNISTS, LEADING TO FAILURES SUCH AS VIETNAM AND DANGEROUS POLICY OF DETENTE.

4. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BOTH IN SEOUL AND PROVINCES ROKS HAVE VOICED SIMILAR PRAISE OF HOLLINGSWORTH BUT HAVE ALSO QUESTIONED U.S. AS TO ANY POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR REPLACING HOLLINGSWORTH: DENIALS OF STORIES OFTEN WERE MET WITH SKEPTICISM.

5. COMMENT: ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO REPLACEMENT OF COLORFUL AND RESPECTED GENERAL, SUSPICION OF POLITICAL MOTIVATION, AND CRITICISM OF DETENTE IS REFLECTION OF CONTINUING PUBLIC EDGINESS OVER U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEFEND ROK.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RETIREMENT, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL01056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760053-0755
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760255/aaaabvtp.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO HOLLINGSWORTH DEPARTURE
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, KS, (HOLLINGSWORTH, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006